

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) A disposable absorbent article comprising:

a liquid pervious sheet;

a liquid impervious sheet; and

an absorbent structure including an absorbent core and being disposed between the liquid pervious sheet and the liquid impervious sheet, wherein

standing cuffs for surrounding wearer's legs are provided at respective opposite sides of said disposable absorbent article, ~~each of said standing cuffs comprising a standing sheet and stretching members provided to the standing sheet,~~

said liquid pervious sheet has a width greater than that of said absorbent structure so that said liquid pervious sheet has laterally extended portions extending beyond respective opposite sides of said absorbent structure,

each of said standing cuffs comprises a standing sheet and stretching members provided to the standing sheet, wherein

the standing sheet has a proximal edge fixed to a corresponding one of the laterally extended portions of said liquid pervious sheet, said proximal edge defining a base line extending in a direction parallel to a longitudinal centerline of said disposable absorbent article,

said standing sheet extends from the base line in a lateral direction with respect to said base line toward the longitudinal centerline of said disposable absorbent article, said standing sheet comprising a standing portion, a folding back portion, and a surface contacting portion, the standing portion extending, on the corresponding one of the laterally extended portions, from the base line to the folding back portion and being folded back at the folding back portion, and the surface contacting portion extending, on the standing portion, from the folding back portion toward the base line,

two or more of said stretching members provided to the standing sheet are arranged in the vicinity of a [[free]] distal edge of said surface-contacting portion, said two or more stretching members being spaced apart from each other, the distal edge being an edge which is distal from the folding back portion,

at least one of said stretching members provided to the standing sheet is arranged in said standing portion and in the vicinity of said base line,

at least one of said stretching members provided to the standing sheet is arranged in the vicinity of the folding back portion, [[and]]

during use of said disposable absorbent article, said standing cuffs are deformed by contractile force of said stretching members such that the standing portion extends in a substantially vertical direction relative to the corresponding one of the laterally extended portions and said surface-contacting portion extends toward a corresponding one of the wearer's legs, and

portions of the standing portion locating at respective front and back ends of the disposable absorbent article are directly fixed to the pervious sheet, and portions of the surface-contacting portion locating at the respective front and back ends of the disposable

absorbent article are directly fixed to the respective portions of the standing portion, the front and back ends respectively extending in a direction substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of the disposable absorbent article, and plane-gathering cuffs are respectively provided to the respective laterally extended portions of said liquid pervious sheet, said plane-gathering cuffs outwardly extending from the respective laterally extended portions.

27-47. (Cancelled)

48. (Currently Amended) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 26, wherein ~~[[said]] the folding back portion of the folded free portion of the standing sheet~~ is located outside of an area over said absorbent core.

49. (Currently Amended) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 26, wherein

a back sheet is disposed on a back-side of said liquid impervious sheet, and
said liquid impervious sheet has a width greater than that of said absorbent structure so that said liquid impervious sheet has laterally extended portions extending beyond said respective opposite sides of said absorbent structure, ~~the laterally extended portions of the liquid impervious sheet being fixed to those of the liquid pervious sheet, respectively~~
~~said proximal edge of the standing sheet is fixed to corresponding one of the laterally extended portions of said liquid impervious sheet and the corresponding one of the laterally extended portions of said liquid pervious sheet.~~

50. (Cancelled)

51. (Currently Amended) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 26, wherein ~~each of the two or more of~~ said stretching members arranged in the vicinity of said ~~[[free]]~~ distal edge of said surface-contacting portion has 400 d to 640 d and a contraction percentage of 160% to 300%, and ~~each of the at least one of~~ said stretching members arranged in said standing portion has 640 d to 2100 d and a contraction percentage of 150% to 250%.

52. (Cancelled)

53. (Previously Presented) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 26, further comprising stretching members disposed between said liquid impervious sheet and said absorbent structure to lift the respective opposite sides of said absorbent structure, the stretching members extending along a direction parallel to the longitudinal centerline of said disposable absorbent article.

54. (Currently Amended) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 53, wherein

said absorbent core has a hourglass-like shape having a wide width portion and a narrow width portion, the narrow portion including side portions respectively encircling by constricting both side portions of the absorbent core so that the constricted side portions respectively encircle the wearer's legs, and

said stretching members disposed between said liquid impervious sheet and said absorbent structure are arranged to overlap with said the ~~[[wide]]~~ widest width portion, but not to overlap with the ~~narrow~~ narrowest width portion.

55. (Previously Presented) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 26, further comprising stretching members disposed between said liquid impervious sheet and said absorbent core to lift the respective opposite sides of said absorbent structure, the stretching members extending along a direction parallel to the longitudinal centerline of said disposable absorbent article.

56-61. (Cancelled)